

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A mutated alkaline cellulase which is ~~obtainable~~ obtained by deleting, from a cellulase having an amino acid sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence exhibiting at least 90% homology therewith, one or more amino acid residues chosen from the 343rd to 377th positions in ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 2 or from corresponding positions and inserting a peptide having 2 to 15 amino acid residues into at least one of the deleted positions.

2. (Currently Amended) The mutated alkaline cellulase according to claim 1, which is ~~obtainable~~ obtained by deleting one or more amino acid ~~residue(s)~~ residues chosen from the 357th to 362nd positions of ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 2 or from corresponding positions and inserting a peptide having 2 to 5 amino acid residues into at least one of the deleted positions.

3. (Currently Amended) The mutated alkaline cellulase as described in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which is ~~obtainable~~ obtained by deleting all of the amino acid residues from the 357th to 362nd positions of ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 2 or from corresponding positions and inserting a peptide having 3 amino acid residues into the deleted positions.

4. (Currently Amended) The mutated alkaline cellulase as described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the peptide to be inserted contains as structural amino acid residues thereof, alanine and glycine, alanine and histidine, or alanine and arginine.

5. (Currently Amended) The mutated alkaline cellulase as described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the peptide to be inserted is alanine-glycine-alanine, alanine-histidine-alanine, or alanine-arginine-alanine.

6. (Currently Amended) A gene encoding a mutated alkaline cellulase as recited in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1.

7. (Original) A recombinant vector comprising a gene as recited in claim 6.

8. (Original) A transformant comprising a recombinant vector as recited in claim 7.

9. (Original) The transformant as described in claim 8, wherein a microorganism is used as a host.